Political change in Europe

733. PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) what is Government's preception of recent changes in Germany, the Soviet Union and other East European countries; and

(b) what strategic changes Government visualise to strengthen our friendly presence and mutual gains in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Government of India welcomes German unification and the political and economic reforms underway in the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe. We hope that these changes would contribute to peace and stability in Europe and an improved climate of international relations

(b) In the changing circumstances, the Government is taking steps to expand and intensify India's ties in various fields with all these countries.

ECO '92

734 SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that ECO '92 was organised recently in New Delhi where Ms Brundtland was also present and if so, the details of the summary Recommendations;

(b) whether it is a fact that the precipating NGWs made written and oral submissions and if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether Government would send a large contingent to the ECO' 92 in Brazil?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Government of India is aware of the ECO '92 Public Forum organised in New Delhi on 19th September 1990 and attended by Ms. Gro Harlem Brundtland. The ECO '92 Public Forum did not adopt any Summary Recommendations.

(b) Some of the participating NGO's made written and oral submissions relating to the protection of the environment and the interrelationship between environment and development, both in the international context as also with respect to the Indian situation.

(c) Government of India would be appropriately represented at the UN Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in June 1992. A meeting of NGO's is also likely to be held in parallel with that Conference. The nature of participation in that NGO meeting is for the NGO's to decide.

Transportation of Indian from the Gulf

735 DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH·
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY·
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN·

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated expenditure incurred by Government for transporting the stranded Indians safely from the Gulf countries to India as a result of the recent Gulf crisis;

(b) the number of those who have so far been transported back to India safely and those who still remain there to be repatriated; and

(c) what steps are being taken for transporting the remaining Indians and for transferring their properties including their bank accounts from there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Estimated expenditure on repatriation of stranded Indians from Kuwait and Iraq is approx Rs. 300 crores